

No. 25

Gordon 10766/18

From Whom

J. of S.

Place

S.

Date

5-12-18

SUBJECT.

Laboratory & new office

Connected Papers.

MINUTES.

C. E.

Can you please say if the item for laboratory
was included in the Budget?

My copy is now with the printer

Wtd. B. L. N.

13-9-19

C. S.

One item for \$40000 was put in but struck
out by H. E. the O. A. C.

Wtd. C. S. H.

16-9-19

C. S.

Submitted

Wtd. B. L. N.

17-9-19

C.E.

Are there any plans for the proposed laboratory? If not how was the estimate of \$40,000 arrived at?

whether a much more modest scheme for a laboratory might not be put forward.

W. H. Marriott

28-9-19

W. H. Marriott

18-9-19

Yes early in order if possible that provision may be restricted to a lesser amount for the Committee

C.S.

The plan enclosed estimated to cost \$40,000 in 1914.

W. T. S. Jones

29-9-19

2. It appears to be much larger than is really necessary & contains more accommodations than is now asked for.

D. G. S. for your views (as early as you can give them)

W. H. Marriott

29/9/19

3. The plan was approved by the D. G. S.

Arthur C. S. M.

14-9-19

The following will suffice. A two storied building with on upper floor area 1300 sq feet. on each storey to contain a laboratory on the first floor, offices for the Director & Clerks on the ground floor

W. T. S. Jones

30-9-19

Y.S.

Submitted. What was asked for was laboratory, but what was designed was apparently an entirely new office, including laboratory museum. It was estimated to cost \$40,000 in 1914

& I suppose would cost \$60,000 now.

2. I suggest that the active Director be asked to consider

No Minutes should be written on this page. A separate half-sheet to be used if required.

Sir,

I have the honour at the direction of the Gardens Committee to refer you to the question of erecting a Laboratory in these Gardens, and to explain that an error in regard to it has got into the draft estimates whereby we have asked for twice as much as is needed and it is understood that the request is being withheld ~~on account of its largeness~~ on account of its largeness

2. As to the Estimates, the item was inserted in the Public Works Department's vote on sanction given in Gardens 10766/18. I had asked (para 1 section 4 of my letter of December 5th, 1918) for the erection of the Gardens Laboratory with offices underneath, as proposed in file Gardens 4071/16, and had given reasons in para 5 of the same letter, the Colonial Engineer had estimated the cost at \$40,000, and in a note dated 26th. Feb., 1919 sanction was given for the entering of this sum in the Estimates, without my having the opportunity of discovering that the estimate of \$40,000 was based upon the on the first ~~plan~~ Architect's plans, which were not approved in their entirety.

3. The laboratory was proposed by me in a letter dated 16th. June, 1914 (file Gardens 769/14) to be a building erected upon the site of the existing Gardens herbarium building affording double the room of the Herbarium by being two storied, the laboratory of necessity above. Mr. Wilkinson, then Colonial Secretary, however, was not prepared to allow me to

pull down the Herbarium, but he was prepared to sanction ~~the erection~~ three-eighths of my proposal namely the erection of the laboratory as a two-storied building. Unfortunately for the Department upon the outbreak of war erection was postponed, to be postponed again in ^Gardens 769/14 by letters dated 16th August, 1915 and 10 June, 1916, the last suggesting the end of the war as the time for erecting it.

4. By a much regretted mischance we now stand exposed to another postponement.

5. On Monday last, the 8th., the Gardens Committee instructed me to urge as strongly as I can that the \$20,000 wanted should be allowed to stand in the Budget estimates for 1920, that the laboratory may be erected. If the Government can do this it will be ^{such} an act as I deem Lord Milner indicated in his dispatch on scientific research which was published in the Gazette of August 8th., 1919, p. 1166-1167.

6. Not only on these grounds but to avoid waste should the laboratory be built. It was pointed out in my letter of 5th. February 1914, (file 769/14) that the appointment of an Assistant Director, who should be a student of the Lower Plants necessitated a laboratory for his studies; and it has always been understood that the justification for postponing the erection of the building lay in the fact that the services of the Assistant Director had been put at the disposal of the War office for the duration of the war. Now that the Assistant Director, Major Chipp, is at work it is the bounden duty of the Colony to itself as well as to him to supply the laboratory in

which alone can he justify himself and your appointing of him. To appoint the officer, and not to furnish him with the means of doing his work will be wasteful.

7½ You are aware of the organisation of my department, how we have

a Director whose knowledge is of the Higher Plants

an Assistant Director, whose knowledge is of the Lower Plants

an Assistant Curator whose skill is in practical Horticulture

a Field Assistant to help as required

and that this scheme carries the corollary that when the Director is replaced in retirement by the Assistant Director and the highest office in the Gardens is occupied by the expert on Lower plants, the new Assistant Director would be appointed for his knowledge of the Higher Plants. Thus have we planned to cover our ground. We have arranged that in retirement Mr. Ridley should write a Handbook to the Higher Plants of the Peninsula, and with Major Chipp at work it is intended to build up "Materials for carrying the Handbook through the Lower Plants too.

I return from leave in May next, ideally the new laboratory should be in use then; for with my return I hope to free the Assistant Director so much from administrative duties that the progress in our knowledge of the thousands of algae, fungi, and other Lower plants, will be striking. It needs only opportunity and the laboratory to achieve this: and to wait yet another year upon the top of five years of waiting will be disappointing.

8. As I never knew when the bogey of overlapping of work may be raised, may I assure you that I expect no overlapping of work between my office and the Department of Agriculture's. My department's purpose is to determine and catalogue the plants occurring in the Peninsula: the mycologist of that Department sits down with a restricted programme is the attempt to get a so complete an idea of the life-histories of certain notorious pests as may enable planters to combat them. The determinations made in my department are the clearing of ground for his operations. A good understanding between the two departments is all that is necessary.

(. Lastly may I anticipate another possible objection, namely that the scientists in London are going to do it all for us. They cannot; and it is obvious that no one can count upon studying living Lower Plants anywhere better than in the climates natural to them.

10. I trust that the sum of \$20,000 may be allowed to stand in the Colonial Estimates for the coming year.

I have,